[*English*]

Subsidy to Coffee Grower

3826. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the amount of loan and subsidy to coffee growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Coffee Board had proposed an increase in the existing scales of finance under their loan and subsidy schemes as part of the VIIIth Plan proposals. Scheme-wise details of Coffee Board's VIIIth Plan are yet to be finalised to be finalised and a decision on any increase will be taken only at that time.

Illegal Heroin Laboratories

3827. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNAHANDIQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scores of illegal heroin laboratories are in clandestine operation in the opium belt of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the Narcotics Control Bureau have adequate staff to curb the trade; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to monitor effectively the illegal opium production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) During the last five years, 19 make-shift laboratories engaged in production of heroin were unearthed and destroyed in Uttar Pradesh by various enforcement agencies.

(b) Various enforcement agencies under the State and Central Government are responsible for taking action against drug traffickers. The Narcotics Control Bureau was created by the Central Government as an agency under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. 1985. One of its main function is to coordinate action taken by various other agencies in drug abuse control matters.It is also having a small contingent of striking force located in few important cities in the country which includes Varaasi in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) Periodic surveys are conducted by various agencies in order to identify illicit cultivation of opium poppy. Whenever, illicit cultivation is noticed, it is promptly destroyed. Vigil is also maintained over the licit cultivation of opium with a view tc preventing its diversion to illicit channels.

Construction of Roads in Border Areas

3828. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the four Border Area Roads along the Meghalaya- Bangladesh Border under the Sensitive Border Area Road Programme handed over by the state Government to the Border Road Organisation, has been completed;

(b) the total amount originally sanctioned on each road item-wise,

(c) the actual amount spent till date in each case; and

(d) the terms and conditions between the State Public Works Department and the executing agency on entrustment of the Roads?